

Remarks

Claims 1, 4-6, 12, 13, 15, 17, 20, 73-89, 91, 118-119, 154 and 156-181 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 3, 7-11, 16, 18, 19, 27-67, 90, and 92-117 were previously canceled. Claims 21-26 and 121-153 and 155 have been canceled as the Examiner has maintained that these claims are drawn to non-elected subject matter. Claims 1, 6, 13, 15, 17, 20, 156, 179 and 180 have been amended in view of the Examiner's rejections to place the application in condition for allowance and to correct minor typographical errors. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any withdrawn or canceled subject matter in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner McGarry for the extending the courtesy of a phone interview on June 20, 2007 with Inventor Christopher Rusconi and Applicants' representatives Susanne Hollinger, Brent Bellows and Michelle Hunt.

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 1, 4-6, 12, 20, 73-91, 119 and 154 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as failing to meet the written description requirement. The Examiner asserts that the structure specified in the claims is overly broad and that no context is provided for the stems and loops recited in the claim. Independent claims 1 and 20 have been amended to recite "wherein the secondary structure consists essentially of, in a 5' to 3' direction" the stem and loop structure. Support for this amendment can be found in the Examples and in, for example, Figures 18 and 20 of the specification. Based on the discussion on June 20, Applicants believe that this amendment addresses the Examiner's rejection and provides the necessary context for the secondary structure.

The Examiner also rejects claims 13 and 156-180 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite for the recitation of both SEQ ID NO. 70 and "SEQ ID NO. 3 or a truncate thereof" in the same claim. Applicants have amended claims 13, 156 and 180 to remove SEQ ID NO. 70 and have amended the dependent claims 15 and 17 for consistency. Applicants believe that the amendment addresses the Examiner's rejection.

The Examiner has also rejected claim 179 for lack of antecedent basis for the phrase "the first stem region". Applicants have amended the claim to correct this error.

The Examiner has objected to claims 153 and 155 as directed to non-elected subject matter. These claims have been canceled.

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Applicants believe that these amendments address the Examiner's remaining rejections and place the application in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require any additional clarifying amendments, Applicants request that he contact the undersigned at 404-572-2485.

Applicants enclose a credit card authorization form for the filing fees due with this response. Applicants believe no further fees are due, however, should the Examiner determine otherwise, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit any required fee from Deposit Account 11-0980.

Respectfully submitted,

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